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Herbaceous Peonies and Iris

OFFERED BY

I. E. Ilgenfritz' Sons Company

THE MONROE NURSERY

Monroe, Michigan

FOREWORD

To our many friends and patrons we again extend a hearty welcome. Last year it was our pleasure to supply you with many choice Peonies, all of which we trust have developed nicely and to your satisfaction.

In this small pamphlet it is our purpose to give you an idea of some of the many varieties that we are growing in our nursery grounds. No catalog, however, can begin to give you any conception of the wondrous size and beauty of the many rare kinds that will be blooming in our fields this summer. Only by a visit here and a sight of nearly a million exquisite blossoms can one begin to give expression. Truly one can say, "The half has never yet been told." It has always been our aim to secure the choicest plants obtainable, and with that end in view we have spared neither pains nor expense to introduce the best varieties to be had from the foremost European growers.

Our collection of Peonies has always been spoken of in the highest terms by those competent to judge, and it shall always be our utmost endeavor to have our stock second to none in quality.

Read Carefully Before Ordering

Why you should order early: Many Peonies in the better grades are in limited supply and are over-sold yearly. The propagation of the Peony is slow, and we do not "make" varieties to order. If your order is not sent promptly after catalog is mailed please name one or two possible substitutes or instruct us to return money, if that is preferred. Where selection is left to our judgment, we always send greater value than remittance represents.

THE MONROE NURSERY

I. E. ILGENFRITZ' SONS CO.

MONROE,

MICHIGAN



Information About Peonies

After the Blooming Season

The plants will make no further growth after the blooming season is over. Keep the ground about them stirred and free from weeds, and water need be applied only when the ground is quite dry.

Seed-pods and remains of flowers may be cut off, but do not under any circumstances remove foliage until October. We repeat this, since we have known people to cut off all foliage to the ground after the blooming season is over.

Wintering

So far as protection from cold is concerned, the Peony does not ask it in even the most severe climate. The first winter the roots, being loose in the ground, will require a light protection (an inch or so) of strawy manure or other porous material. After this, if the ground has been made deep and rich, as directed, we would advise withholding all manure and protection for several years, and, when it does again become necessary to fertilize, the manure should be broadcasted rather than placed directly over the crown of the plant, which latter, study and observation have shown us, often induces decay to set in.

A heavy mulching, having to some extent the same effect as deep planting, will often be followed by blind growth or buds which fail to develop.

Why Some Peonies Do Not Bloom

As this is a question sometimes asked, we will answer it here for the benefit of all interested.

In the first place, a Peony root, whether large or small, recently transplanted, will usually throw up more or less blind shoots, or with small buds which fail to develop. This effect will also often be produced by very deep planting or too heavy mulching over winter. (See "Wintering.")

Occasionally very severe late frosts, after the Peonies are well above ground, will also destroy the coming blooms. This, however, has never happened to a serious extent in this latitude during the many years we have been interested in Peonies, but in some localities we have known this to destroy practically the entire crop, although it did not seriously affect the subsequent growth of the plant for the season.

Lack of moisture or fertility will also affect the blooming qualities of a plant. The Peony requires much moisture during the few weeks preceding its blooming time—afterward, having by June, made its entire growth above ground for the season, moderate moisture will do.

Then again, there are many thousands of Peony plants all over the country which should never have found a place in the private garden. A grower raises seedling Peonies by the acre. He must cultivate them several years before they bloom, and when they do bloom he finds few or none that are as good as varieties already in existence, but lacking the courage to dig them up and throw them away, he sells them to the jobber, to whom all roots look alike, and thus they find their way into the planter's hands. Very probably many of these seedlings have never bloomed and some of them probably never will.

In our own tests of varieties, one that does not begin to bloom within two or three years from planting is discarded, and it must be a very distinct and unusually good variety to be retained and offered here if it does not bloom well and regularly every season after having become established. It is true that there are some varieties which are tardy in beginning to bloom.

As a Cut Flower

It is hardly equaled. Cut as the bud is about to unfold, and placed in water in a cool room, where air

is fresh night and day, most varieties will last several days. The blooms will then be superior to those left to open on the plant and exposed to the heat of the sun.

Set at once in a cold, dark cellar, the different varieties may be kept several days longer than their blooming period. Bring up as wanted.

Most Economical Plant to Buy

While its first cost may seem high, it is really the most economical plant one can buy, from the fact that it represents a **permanent** investment and one which pays annual dividends of increase at least 100 per cent. Almost every family, of even the most moderate means, spends annually quite a tidy little sum in bulbs, geraniums, and other bedding plants, and at the end of the year has nothing left to show for it. Plant the Peony, and it will last as long as you do—and longer. Plantings may be left undisturbed from ten to twenty years, or even longer, if the soil is occasionally enriched.

How the Peony Is Sent to You

The Peony is sent out in the form of a root, from which, when dormant, will be seen protruding pinkish "eyes" or buds, the strongest of which will throw up next season's flowering shoots.

Disbudding

Most Peonies usually set three or more buds to a stem. All but the central (largest) bud should be pinched off as soon as they can be gotten hold of, if the finest individual blooms are wanted.

Depth and Distance to Plant

The root should be set so that the upper eyes are about two to three inches beneath the surface of the soil, and, if planted in permanent beds, should be two and a half to three and a half feet apart, according to room at one's disposal. When planted in field for cut-flower purposes, the plants should be set three to three and a half feet apart in row, and rows from four to five feet apart, or plant 4 x 4 to permit cross cultivation.

Trueness

Desirable as it is to get fine strong roots, it is even of greater importance that stock be true to name, and it is in this phase of the business that we es-



Duke of Wellington. (See page 10.)

pecially challenge comparison. During the blooming season our personal time is devoted almost exclusively to proving stock, and we maintain trial and garden tests such as cannot be found elsewhere in this country. The pith of all this is well, if briefly, expressed in the enthusiastic statement of a patron, "If you get it of Ilgenfritz Sons Co., it's true."

When Shipment Is Made

We usually begin digging Peonies for fall delivery about September 15 to 25, and ship after that date, unless shipment is especially requested earlier.

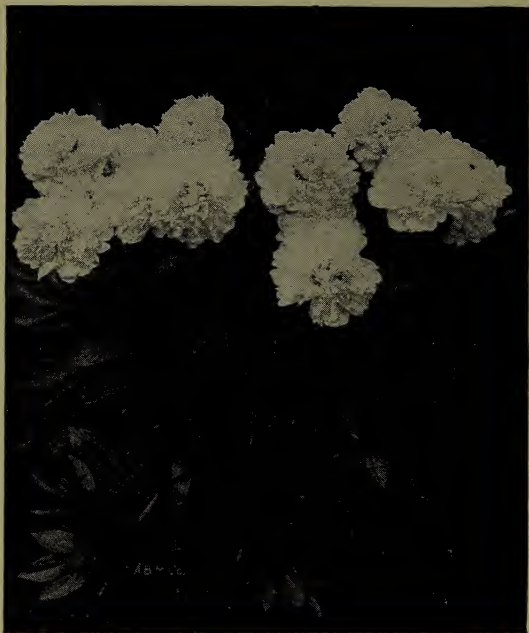
While we recommend fall planting for Peonies, they can also be successfully transplanted in April, and when it is impossible for our customers to get their orders in for fall, we will be glad to take care of them in the spring.

Can Be Shipped Safely Anywhere

The Peony, in fall, can stand without injury a journey of months, if kept from prolonged heat, which would start it into growth. There is, in fact, no flower which can be transported over long distances with greater safety.



Block of Peonies in Bloom.



Mad. de Verneville. (See page 13.)

The Varieties We Offer

The list we offer is sufficiently long to embrace the various colors, forms, and seasons, of the Peony, but not so long as to make selection by the average planter needlessly difficult and perplexing. In fact, we aim to keep our list as brief as seems advisable, and have yearly eliminated from our collection and trial beds such sorts as have proved inferior or too much like other established sorts. This elimination requires a certain courage which few growers exercise, with the result that a long and confusing list is set before the prospective buyer, and which necessarily must contain duplicate or inferior kinds, or both.



Alexandriana.

ALEXANDRIANA. Very large, full, double rose type; light violet rose. Very strong, upright grower and free bloomer. Late. One of the best for cut flowers.

AGIDA. Semi-double type; bright showy red, very gay and showy. Free bloomer. Midseason.

ALICE. Large, loose, bomb; violet-rose, center fading to nearly white. Very strong, medium habit. Mid-season.

ANNA. Deep pink. Large, one of the best pinks. Ragged edge. Early.

BRUTUS. Large flower; brilliant purplish dark red color. Free bloomer. Midseason.

CARNATION. Violet-red; semi-double, very large and fine. Midseason.



Duchesse de Nemours.

CANDIDISSIMA. Full, double rose type; pure white, sulphur center. Tall, vigorous, free bloomer. Early.

CENTRAPELATA. Large pink. One of the best for cut flowers; early.

DUC DE CAZAS. Medium size, loose crown; dark pink, silvery collar. Weak, spreading habit; free bloomer. Early.

DUCHESSE DE NEMOURS. Medium size; pure white crown, sulphur-white collar. Vigorous grower, of medium height, free bloomer. Early.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON. Guard petals white, very broad; center petals sulphur-white, narrow and very full. The large, finely formed flowers come on long, firm stems. A good, free bloomer; deliciously fragrant.



Festiva Maxima.

EDOUARD ANDRE. Medium, loose, semi-double; dark carmine-violet, stamens golden-yellow. Dwarf habit. Midseason.

FESTIVA MAXIMA. Very large and full pure white flower, with few center petals usually tipped with blood-red spots. A very vigorous grower, with massive foliage, flowers coming on long, stiff stems. Fragrant, early, and blooms most abundantly. Perhaps the very best all-around white we possess. It is certainly the most popular.

FESTIVA. Large, full, double, rose type; cream-white with crimson spots in the center. Dwarf grower; late.

GRANDIFLORA. Very large, flat, rose type; uniform rose-white. Tall, erect, strong grower. Very late.



Louis Van Houtte.

HERMAN. Medium size, light pink edge, yellow center. Midseason.

JENNIE BLAKE. Shell pink. Large, fragrant, and one of the best. Midseason.

LAMARTINE. Large to immense, very full flower, delicate baby pink with silvery reflex; rather early. In good soil this will turn out one of the Peonies to bow down to. Sold also as Gigentea.

LATIPETALA. Shell-pink. Semi-double. Midseason.

LUTETIANA. Almost white; semi-double. Large. Midseason.

LUCRETIA. Very light pink, ragged edge. One of the best. Midseason.

LOUIS VAN HOUTTE. Medium size, semi-rose type; deep carmine rose, tipped silver, with fiery reflex. Medium height. One of the best dark reds. Late.



Marie Lemoine.

MARIE LEMOINE. Enormous, sulphur-white, full and well-built flower, delicately shaded chamois, with narrow carmine edge. The massive bloom comes late on a very stout, erect stem of medium height. A sort the Peony enthusiast raves over, as well he may.

MAD. DE GALHAU. Enormous, imbricated flower, coming on tall, firm, erect stems. Color soft, glossy flesh-pink, shaded with transparent salmon. A superb, late variety of ideal habit, and a good, profuse bloomer.

MAD. DE VERNEVILLE. Exceedingly fine, full anemone-shaped flower. Broad guard petals, sulphur-white; center rosy-white, with an occasional edging of carmine; beautifully imbricated. Very sweet, rose-like fragrance. Blooms early and very abundantly. A flower to love.



Mad. Loise.

MONS. JULES ELIE. Immense, globular, very full flower; glossy, fresh pink, deeper at base of petals; silvery reflex on whole bloom. Glossy, light green foliage. Superlatively fine. When well grown this is the largest and grandest of all pink Peonies.

MAGNIFICA. Large, compact, globular, rose type; hydrangea-pink. Erect, dwarf habit. Late.

MARIE. Medium size, flat, compact, semi-rose type; lilac-white, fading to milk-white, golden-yellow stamenoids or short, narrow petals surround the collar, petals changing to yellow at base. Very tall, free bloomer. Very late.

MYRTLE. Pure white; medium size. Midseason.

MARTHA. Light rose, single. Early.

MRS. BRYANT. Shell pink. Medium size. Early.

MRS. DOUGLAS. Very large white with yellow center. Midseason.



Rosea Elegans.

MADAM ED. ANDRE. Dark wine color; semi-double. Very fine. Midseason.

MADAM LOISE. Double pink. Fragrant. One of the largest Peonies grown. Sometimes has four large blossoms on one stem. Erect and tall grower.

PURPUREA SUPERBA. Large, globular, compact crown: uniform, deep carmine-rose, guards streaked white. Very tall, free bloomer. Midseason.

QUEEN VICTORIA. Large, globular, medium loose, low crown: milk-white guards, tinted flesh; center cream-white with crimson spots. Medium height, strong, free bloomer. Midseason.

REEVESIANA PLENA. Fine formed rose type; soft rosy-flesh. Healthy grower, free bloomer. Midseason. Extra fine.

ROSEA ELEGANS. Large, full, anemone type; soft pink, salmon-lilac center. Medium height. Extra fine. Early.



Triumph du Nord.

RUBRA TRIUMPHS. Large, loose, globular, semi-double; very dark crimson. Medium tall, strong, healthy grower. Early midseason. One of the best.

SADIE WALKER. Medium size; rose color. One of the best pinks grown. Midseason.

TRIUMPH DU NORD. Very large, medium compact bomb type; light solferino-red, silvery reflex. Tall, free bloomer. Midseason.

VICTOR HUGO. Bomb type; brilliant carmine-red. Medium height. Late.

ZOE CALOT. Medium size, compact, flat, bomb type; violet-rose. Erect, medium habit, and extra large. Midseason.



Iris.

Iris

These plants, blooming in rainbow colors, at a season of the year when there are few other flowers, should be included in every garden collection. Their great range of color, height, and season of blooming, make them seem almost of different families. The dwarf Irises, blooming the last of April, followed by those of greater height, to the stately Pallida varieties, and finally the Siberian types appearing nearly two months later, in various shades of red, white, yellow, blue and violet, are a splendid pageant gathered from all parts of the world.

They may be transplanted in the fall or early spring. Do not use manure around the roots and plant in shallow holes, barely covering the bulbs or root stalks with soil. They will do best on a rather dry soil, with a dressing of leaf mold.

The following are the best of the standard sorts, usually in bloom at Decoration Day and are fine cut. When flowers are wanted for shipping purposes cut in bud and all buds will open fine, and for garden display they have no equal. The following is no doubt the finest collection in America:

IRIS AUREA. Clear, bright yellow, blooming between the Siberian and Japanese species.

GENUINE PALLIDA DALMATICA. The crowned queen of the German Iris. Flowers exceedingly large and the most beautiful light blue, clear and pure, very vigorous, and head and shoulders above all other blue German Iris.

HONORABLE. Golden yellow, lower falls reticulated crimson.

MADAME CHEREAU. Height 3 to 4 feet. Pure white, edges beautifully penciled, with blue margin. Very fine. One of the best.

PARISIENSIS. A very beautiful purple. Tall, and one of the best of its color. Very fine.

QUEEN OF MAY. Height, 30 to 36 inches. Delicate old rose; early. One of the best pinks.

STENOPHYLLA. Very fragrant; lavender. This is one of the most fragrant Iris that blooms.

SNOW QUEEN (Sibirica). Height 42 inches. Pure white. This is a variety of the Siberian Iris which blooms a little later than the German Iris.



Madame Chereau.

IN MAILING you this booklet we hope to serve you further, as we know we can please you with the excellent stock we have to offer

I. E. Ilgenfritz' Sons Co.

The Monroe Nursery,

Monroe, Mich.

